Chrononhotonthologos:

THE MOST

TRAGICAL TRAGEDY

That ever was Tragedized

BYANY

COMPANY of TRAGEDIANS.

The EIGHTH EDITION.



Printed in the Year, M,DCC,LV.

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PROLOGUE.

To night our comic Muse the buskin wears, And gives herfelf no small Romantic airs; Struts in heroics, and in pompous verse Does the minutest incidents rehearse; In ridicule's strict retrospect displays The poetasters of these modern days; Who with big bellowing bombast rend our ears, Which, stript of found, quite void of sense appears ; Or else their fiddle-faddle numbers flow, Serenely dull, elaborately low: Either extreme when vain pretenders take, The actor fuffers for the author's fake. The quite tir'd audience lose whole hours, yet pay To go un-pleas'd, and un-improv'd away. This being our scheme, we hope you will excuse The wild excursion of the wanton muse; Who out of frolic wears a mimic mask, And sets herself so whimsical a task: 'Tis meant to please; but, if it should offend, It's very short, and soon will have an end.

A 2

Dramatis

Dramatis Personae.

Chrononhotonthologos, King of Queerummania.
Bombardinian, his general.
Aldiborontiphoscophornio,
Rigdum-Funnidos,
Captain of the guards.
Herald.
Cook.
Doctor.
King of the fiddlers.

King of the Antipodes.

Fadladinida, queen of Queerummania. Tatlanthe, her favourite.

Two ladies of the court.

Two ladies of pleafure.

Venus.

Cupid.

Guards and attendants, &c.

SCENE, Queerummania.

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THE

TRAGEDY

OF

CHRONONHOTONTHOLOGOS.



SCENE,

An Anti Chamber in the Palace.

Enter Rigdum-Funnidos and Aldiborontiphoscophornio.

Rig-Fun. A Ldiborontiphoscophornio!

Where left you Chrononhotonthologos?

Aldi. Fatigu'd with the tremendous toils of war, Within his tent, on downy couch succumbent, Himself he unsatigues with gentle slumbers:

Lull'd by the chearful trumpets gladsome clangor.

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The noise of drums, and thunder of artillery,
He sleeps supine amidst the din of war:
And yet 'tis not definitively sleep;
Rather a kind of doze, a waking slumber,
That sheds a stupefaction o'er his fenses;
For now he nods and snores; anon he starts;
Then nods and snores again: If this be sleep,
Tell me, ye Gods! what mortal man's awake!
What says my friend to this?

Rig-Fun. —— Say! I fay he fleeps Dog-Sleep: What a plague wou'd you have me fay!

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Aldi. O impious thought! O curs'd infinuation!

As if great Chrononhotonthologos

To animals detestable and vile

Had ought the least similitude!

Rig. My dear friend! you entirely misapprehend me: I did not call the king dog by craft; I was only going to tell you that the soldiers have just now receiv'd their pay, and are all as drunk as so many swabbers.

Aldi. Give orders inftantly that no more money Be issued to the troops: Mean time, my friend, Let the baths be fill'd with seas of cossee, To stupify their souls into sobriety.

Rig. I fancy you had better banish the suttlers, and blow the Geneva casks to the devil.

Aldi. Thou counfell'st well, my Rigdum-Funnidos,
And reason seems to farther thy advice:
But soft! — The king in pensive contemplation
Seems to resolve on some important doubt;
His soul, too copious for his earthly fabric,

Chrononhotonthologos.

Starts forth, spontaneous, in soliloquy, And makes his tongue the midwise of his mind. Let us retire, lest we disturb his solitude.

[They retire.

Enter king.

King. This god of fleep is watchful to torment me, And rest is grown a stranger to my eyes:

Sport not with Chrononhotonthologos,

Thou idle slumb'rer, thou detested Somnus:

For, if thou dost, by all the waking pow'rs

I'll tear thine eye-balls from their leaden sockets,

And force thee to out-stare eternity.

[Exit in a huff.

Re-enter Rigdum and Aldiboronti.

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Rig. The king is in a most cursed passion!——
Pray who the devil is this Mr. Somnus he's so angry withal?

Aldi. The fon of Chaos and of Erebus,
Incestuous pair! brother of Mors relentless,
Whose speckled robe, and wings of blackest hue,
Astonish all mankind with hideous glare;
Himself with sable plumes, to men benevolent,
Brings downy slumbers and refreshing sleep.

Rig. This gentleman may come of a very good family, for ought I know; but I would not be in his place for the world.

Aldi. But lo! the king his footsteps this way bending,

His cogitative faculties immers'd In cogibundity of cogitation: Let filence close our folding-doors of speech, 'Till apt attention tell our heart the purport Of this profound profundity of thought.

Re-enter King, Nobles, and Attendants, &c.

King. ———It is refolv'd ——— Now, Somnus, I defy thee,

And from mankind ampute thy curs'd dominion. These royal eyes thou never more shalt close. Henceforth let no man sleep, on pain of death. Instead of sleep, let pompous pageantry Keep all mankind eternally awake. Bid Harlequino decorate the stage With all magnificence of decoration: Giants, and giantesses, dwarfs and pigmies, Songs, dances, music, in its amplest order, Mimes, pantomimes, and all the magic motion Of Scene Deceptiovisive and sublime.

[The flat scene draws.

The king is feated, and a grand pantomime entertainment is perform'd, in the midst of which enters a Captain of the guard.

Cap. To arms! to arms! great Chrononhotonthologos!
The Antepodean pow'rs, from realms below,
Have burst the solid entrails of the earth;
Gushing such cataracts of forces forth,

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This world is too incopious to contain 'em:
Armies on armies march in form stupendous;
Not like our earthly regions, rank by rank,
But teer o'er teer, high-pil'd from earth to heav'n;
A blazing bullet, bigger than the sun,
Shot from a huge monstrous culverin,
Has laid your royal citadel in ashes.

King. Peace, coward! were they wedg'd like golden ingots,

Or pent so close, as to admit no vacuum,
One look from Chrononhotonthologos
Shall scare them into nothing. Rigdum-Funnidos,
Bid Bombardinian draw his legions forth,
And meet us in the plains of Queerummania.
This very now ourselves shall there conjoin him:
Mean time, bid all the priests prepare their temples
For rites and triumph: let the singing singers,
With vocal voices, most vociferous,
In sweet vociferation, out-vociferize
Ev'n sound itself. So be it as we have order'd.

[Exeunt Omnes.]

SCENE.

A magnificent apartment.

!

Enter Queen, Tatlanthe, and two ladies.

Queen. DAY's curtain's drawn, the Morn begins to rife,

And waking nature rubs her fleepy eyes:

The pretty little fleecy bleating flocks
In Baa's harmonious warble thro' the rocks:
Night gathers up her shades in fable shrouds,
And whisp'ring oziers tattle to the clouds.
What think you, ladies, if an hour we kill,
At basset, ombre, picquet, or quadrille?

Tat. Your majesty was pleas'd to order tea.

Queen. My mind is alter'd; bring some ratisfa.

[They are ferv'd round with a dram.

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I have a famous fidler fent from France;
Bid him come in. What think you of a dance?

Enter Fidler.

Fid. — Thus to your majesty, says the suppliant Muse,

Wou'd you a folo or a fonata chuse; Or bold concerta, or soft Sicilinia, Alla Francese overo in Gusto Romano? When you command, 'tis done as soon as spoke.

Queen. A civil fellow! - play us the Black Joak! [Music plays.

Queen and ladies dance the Black Joak.

So much for dancing; now let's rest a while.

Bring in the tea-things, does the kettle boil?

Tat.—The water bubbles, and the tea-cups skip,

Thro' eager hopes to kiss your royal sip.

Queen. —— Come, ladies, will you please to choose your tea;

0	
Or green imperial, or Pekoe bohea?	
Ist Lady —— Never, no, never fure on earth was feen,	h
So gracious, sweet, and affable a queen.	
2d Lady. —— She is an angel.	
Ist Lady She's a goddess rather.	
Tat. She's Angel, Queen, and Goddess, altogethe Queen, ——— Away! you flatter me.	r.
Ist Lady. — We don't indeed:	
Your merit does our praise by far exceed.	
Queen. You make me blush, pray help me a fan.	to
Ift Lady That blush becomes you	
Tat Wou'd I were a man.	
Queen. I'll hear no more of these fantastic airs.	
The hell rings in a Come ladies laties and	350
The bell rings in: Come, ladies, let's to pray'rs.	
[They dance of	off.

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SCENE,

An Anti-Chamber.

Enter Rigdum-Funnidos and Aldiborontiphoscophornio.

Rig. 'E GAD, we're in the wrong Box! Who the devil would have thought that Chronon-hotonthologos should beat that mortal fight of Tipodeans? Why, there's not a mother's child of them to be seen 'egad, they sooted it away as fast as their hands cou'd

carry 'em; but they have left their king behind 'em. We have him fafe, that's one comfort.

Aldi. Wou'd he were still at amplest liberty!

For, oh! my dearest Rigdum-Funnidos,

I have a riddle to unriddle to thee,

Shall make thee stare thyself into a statue.

Our queen's in love with this Antipodean.

Rig. The devil she is? Well, I see mischief is going forward with a vengeance.

Aldi. But lo! the conqu'ror comes all crown'd with conquest!

A folemn triumph graces his return. Let's grafp the forelock of this apt occasion, To greet the victor, in his flow of glory.

A grand triumph.

Enter Crononhotonthologos, Guards and Attendants, &c. met by Rigdum-Funnidos and Aldiborontiphoscophornio.

Aldi. ——— All hail to Crononhotonthologos! Thrice trebly welcome to your loyal subjects.

Myself and faithful Rigdum-Funnidos,
Lost in a labyrinth of love and loyalty,
Intreat you to inspect our inmost souls,
And read in them what tongue can never utter.

Chro. ———— Aldiborontiphoscophornio,
To thee, and gentle Rigdum-Funnidos,
Our gratulations flow in streams unbounded:

Our bounty's debtor to your loyalty,

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Which shall with int'rest be repaid e'er long.
But where's our Queen! where's Fadladinida!
She should be foremost in this gladsome train,
To grace our triumph; but I see she slights me.
This haughty Queen shall be no longer mine,
I'll have a sweet and gentle Concubine.

Rig. —— Now, my dear little Phoscophorny, for a swinging lye to bring the Queen off, and I'll run with it to her this minute, that we may be all in a story. Say she has got the thorough-go-nimble.

[Whispers, and Steals off:

Aldi. —— Speak not, great Chrononhotonthologos, In accents so injuriously severe
Of Fadladinida, your faithful Queen:
By me she sends an embassy of love,
Sweet blandishments, and kind congratulations,
But, cannot, oh! she cannot, come herself.

King. — Our rage is turn'd to fear: What ails the Queen?

Aldi. A sudden diarrhoea's rapid force So stimulates the peristaltic motion, That she by far out-does her late out-doing, And all conclude her royal life in danger.

King. Bid the physicians of the world assemble in consultation, solemn and sedate:

More, to corroborate their sage resolves,
Call from their graves the learned men of old:
Galen, Hippocrates, and Paracelsus;
Doctors, apothecaries, surgeons, chymists,
All! all! attend; and see they bring their med'cines,

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Whole magazines of galli-poted nostrums,

Materializ'd in pharmaceutic order.

The man that cures our Queen, shall have our empire.

[Exeunt Omnes.

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SCENE,

A Garden.

Enter Tatlanthe and Queen.

Queen. TEIGH ho! my heart!
Queen. HEIGH ho! my heart! Tat.—What ails my gracious Queen?
Queen. O would to Venus I had never feen!
Tat. Seen what, my royal mistress?
Queen Too, too much!
Tat. Did it affright you?
Queen. No, 'tis nothing fuch.
Tat. What was it, Madam?
Queen Really I don't know.
Tat. It must be something!
Queen. No!
Tat. Or nothing!
Queen. No.
Tat. Then I conclude of course, fince it was neither,
nothing, and fomething, jumbled well together.
Queen. Oh! my Tatlanthe, have you never feen!
Tat. Can I guess what, unless you tell, my queen?

Queen. The king I mean.

Tat. ___ Just now return'd from war:

He rides like Mars in his triumphal car.
Conquest precedes, with laurels in his hand;
Behind him Fame does on her tripos stand;
Her golden trump, shrill thro' the air she sounds,
Which rends the earth, and thence to heaven rebounds;
Trophies and spoils innumerable grace

This triumph, which all triumphs does deface: Haste then, great queen! your hero then to meet, Who longs to lay his laurels at your feet.

Queen. Art mad, Tatlanthe? I meant no fuch thing.

Your talk's distasteful.

Tat. — Didn't you name the king?

Queen. I did, Tatlanthe, but it was not thine;

The charming king I mean, is only mine.

Tat. Who else, who else, but such a charming fair, In Chrononhotonthologos should share?

The queen of beauty, and the god of arms, In him and you united blend their charms.

Oh! had you seen him, how he dealt out death, And at one stroke robb'd thousands of their breath: While on the slaughter'd heaps himself did rise, In pyramids of conquest to the skies:

The gods all hail'd, and fain would have him stay;

But your bright charms have call'd him thence away.

Queen. This does my utmost indignation raise:
You are too pertly lavish in his praise.
Leave me for ever!

[Tatlanthe kneeling.

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Tat. - Oh! what shall I say? Do not, great queen, your anger thus display! O frown me dead! let me not live to hear My gracious queen and mistress so fevere! I've made some horrible mistake, no doubt; Oh! tell me what it is!

Queen. ____ No. find it out.

Tat. No, I will never leave you; here I'll grow Till you some token of forgiveness show: Oh! all ye pow'rs above, come down, come down! And from her brow dispell that angry frown.

Queen. Tatlanthe, rife, you have prevail'd at last ; Offend no more, and I'll excuse what's past.

[Tatlanthe aside, rising. Chr

Tat. Why, what a fool was I, not to perceive her paffion for the topfy-turvy king, the gentleman that Sur carries his head where his heels should be? but I must tack about I fee.

To the queen. Cra

Excuse me, gracious madam! if my heart Bears fympathy with yours in ev'ry part; With you alike I forrow and rejoice, Approve your passion, and commend your choice; The captive king -

Queen. That's he! that's he! that's he! I'd die ten thousand deaths to set him free: Oh! my Tatlanthe! have you feen his face, His air, his shape, his mien, his ev'ry grace, In what a charming attitude he stands,

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Nor But How prettily he foots it with his hands! Well, to his arms, no to his legs I fly, For I must have him, if I live or die.

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TExeunt.

SCENE.

A Bed - Chamber.

Chrononhotonthologos afleep.

[Rough Music, viz. Salt-Boxes and Rolling-Pins, Grid-Irons and Tongs; Sow-Gelder Horns, Marrow-Bones and Cleavers, &c. &c.

THe wakes.

rifing. Chro. HAT heav'nly founds are thefe that charm my ears! n that Sure 'tis the music of the tuneful fpheres.

Enter Captain of the Guards.

Cap. A messenger from Gen'ral Bombardinian Craves instant audience of your majesty. Chro. Give him admittance.

Enter Herald.

Her. Long life to Chrononhotonthologos! Your faithful Gen'ral Bombardinian Sends you his tongue, transplanted in my mouth, To pour his foul out in your royal ears.

Chro. Then use thy master's tongue with reverence, Nor waste it in thine own loquacity, But briefly and at large declare thy meffage.

Her. Suspend a-while, great Chrononhotonthologos,
The sate of empires, and the toils of war;
And in my tent let's quass Phalernian wine,
Till our souls mount, and emulate the gods.
Two captive semales, beauteous as the morn,
Submissive to your wishes, court your option.
Haste then, great King, to bless us with your presence.
Our scouts already watch the wish'd approach,
Which shall be welcom'd by the drums dread rattle,
The cannons thunder, and the trumpets blast;
While I, in front of mighty Myrmidons,
Receive my King in all the pomp of war.

Chro. Tell him I come; my flying steed prepare; E're thou art half on horse-back, I'll be there.

[Excunt.

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SCENE,

A Prison.

The King of the Antipodes discover'd sleeping on a couch.

Enter Queen.

Queen. Is this a place, oh! all ye Gods above!
This a reception for the man I love?
See in what fweet tranquillity he fleeps,
While nature's felf at his confinement weeps.
Rife, lovely monarch, fee your friend appear,
No Chrononhotonthologos is here:
Command your freedom, by this facred ring;
Then command me; What fays my charming King?

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[She puts the ring in his mouth, he bends the Sea-Grab, and makes a roaring noise.

Queen. What can this mean! he lays his feet at

Queen. What can this mean! he lays his feet at mine,

Is this of love or hate his country's fign?

Ah! wretched Queen! how hapless is thy lot,

To love a man that understands thee not!

Oh! lovely Venus, goddess all divine!

And gentle Cupid, that sweet son of thine,

Assist, assist me, with your facred art,

And teach me to obtain this stranger's heart.

Venus descends in her Chariot and sings.

A. I R.

Ven. See Venus does attend thee,

My Dilding, my Dolding.

Love's goddess will befriend thee,

Lilly bright and shinee.

With pity and compassion,

My Dilding, my Dolding,

She sees thy tender passion,

Lilly, &c. Da Capo.

A I R changes.

To thee I yield my Pow'r divine,

Dance over the Lady Lee,

Demand whate'er thou wilt, 'tis thine,

My gay lady.

Take this magic wand in hand,

Dance, &c.

All the world's at thy command, My gay, &c. Da Capo.

Cupid descends, and sings.

AIR.

Are you a widow, or are you a wife?

Gilly flow'r, gentle rosemary.

Or are you a maiden, so fair and so bright?

As the dew that slies over the mulberry-tree.

Queen. Would I were a widow, as I am a wife, Gilly-flow'r, &c.

But I'm, to my forrow, a maiden as bright,
As the dew, &c.

Cupid. You shall be a widow before it is night, Gilly flow'r, &c.

No longer a maiden so fair and so bright, As the dew, &c.

Two jolly young husbands your person shall share, Gilly slow'r, &c.

And twenty fine babies, all lovely and fair, As the dew, &c.

Queen. O thanks, Mr. Cupid! for this your good news, Gilly flow'r, &c.

What woman alive would fuch favours refuse?

While the dew, &c.

Venus and Cupid re-ascend; the Queen goes off, and the King of the Antipodes sollows, walking on his hands. [Scene closes. Box

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SCENE,

Bombardinian's Tent.

King and Bombardinian at a table, with two ladies.

Bomb. THIS Honour, royal Sir! fo royalizes

The royalty of your most royal actions.

The dumb can only utter forth your praise;

For we, who speak, want words to tell our meaning.

Here! fill the goblet with *Phalernian* wine,

And, while our monarch drinks, bid the shrill trumpet Tell all the Gods, that we propine their healths.

King. Hold, Bombardinian, I esteem it sit, With so much wine, to eat a little bit.

Bomb. See that the table instantly be spread, With all that art and nature can produce. Traverse from pole to pole; sail round the globe,

Bring every eatable that can be eat;

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The king shall eat, tho' all mankind be starv'd.

Cook. I am afraid his majesty will be starv'd, before I can run round the world for a dinner — Besides, where's the money?

King. Ha! dost thou prattle, contumacious slave? Guards, seize the villain! broil him, fry him, stew him;

Ourselves shall eat him out of mere revenge.

Cook. O pray your majesty, spare my life; there's some nice cold pork in the pantry: I'll hash it for your majesty in a minute.

Chro. Be thou first hash'd in hell, audacious slave.

[Kills him, and turns to Bombardinian.

Hash'd pork! shall Chrononhotonthologos
Be fed with swine's slesh, and at second-hand?

Now, by the Gods! thou dost infult us, general! Bomb. The Gods can witness, that I little thought Your majesty to other flesh than this

Had ought the least propensity. Pointing to the ladies. King. Is this a dinner for a hungry monarch?

Bomb. Monarchs as great as Chrononhotonthologo's, Have made a very hearty meal of worfe.

King. Ha! traitor! dost thou brave me to my teeth? Take this reward, and learn to mock thy master.

Strikes him.

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Bomb. A blow! shall Bombardinian take a blow? Blush! blush, thou sun! start back, thou rapid ocean! Hills! vales! feas! mountains! all commixing crumble, And into chaos pulverize the world; For Bombardinian has receiv'd a blow,

And Chrononhotonthologos shall die. [Draws. [The women run off, crying, help! murder, &c.

King. What means the traitor ?

- Traitor, in thy teeth

Thus I defy thee!

[They fight - he kills the king.

- Ha! what have I done? Go, call a coach, and let a coach be call'd; And let the man that calls it be the caller; And, in his calling, let him nothing call, But coach! coach! Oh! for a coach, ye Gods!

[Exit raving.

Returns with a doctor. Bomb. How fares your majesty? Doct. ---- My lord, he's dead. Bomb. Ha! dead! impossible! it cannot be! 1! ought

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Gods! wing.

I'd not believe it, tho' himself should swear it. Go join his body to his foul again, Or, by this light, thy foul shall quit thy body.

Doct. My lord, he's far beyond the power of physic. His foul has left his body and this world.

Bomb. Then go to t'other world and fetch it back. Kills him.

And if I find thou triflest with me there, I'll chace thy shade through myriads of orbs, And drive thee far beyond the verge of nature. Ha! --- call'st thou, Chrononhotonthologos? I come! your faithful Bombardinian comes! He comes in worlds unknown to make new wars, And gain thee empires num'rous as the stars.

[He kills himfelf.

Enter Queen, and others.

Aldi. O horrid! horrible, and horridest horror! Our king! our general! our cook! our doctor! All dead! Stone dead! irrevocably dead! 0-h!-[All groan, a tragedy groan.

Queen. My husband dead! Ye gods! what is't you mean,

To make a widow of a virgin Queen? For, to my great misfortune, he, poor king, Has left me fo; i'n't that a wretched thing?

Tat. Why then, dear madam! make no farther po-

Were I your majesty, I'd try another.

Queen. I think 'tis best to follow thy advice.

Tat. I'll fit you with a husband in a trice:

Here's Rigdum-Funnidos, a proper man; . It any one can please a Queen, he can.

Rig. Ay, that I can, and please your majesty. So, ceremonies apart, let's proceed to business.

Queen. Oh! but the mourning takes up all my care.

I'm at a loss what kind of weeds to wear.

Rig. Never talk of mourning, madam, One ounce of mirth, is worth a pound of forrow, Let's bed to-night, and then we'll wed to-morrow: I'll make thee a great man, my little Phoscophorny.

To Aldi. afide.

Aldi. I fcorn your bounty, I'll be king, or nothing.

Draw, mifcreant! draw!

Rig. -- No, Sir, I'll take the law.

[Runs behind the Queen.

Queen. Well, gentlemen; to make the matter eafy, I'll have you both; and that, I hope, will please ye. And now, Tatlanthe, thou art all my care: Where shall I find thee such another pair? Pity that you, who've ferv'd so long, so well, Should die a virgin, and lead apes in hell. Choose for yourself, dear girl, our empire round, Your portion is twelve hundred thousand pound.

Aldi. Here! take these dead and bloody corpse a-

Make preparation for our wedding-day.

Instead of sad solemnity, and black,

Our hearts shall swim in claret, and in sack.

FINIS,